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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL 25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

DATE DISTR. 14 NOV 49

SUBJECT Argentine Political and Economic Situation

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DATE OF INFO. Mid-October 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1A

[redacted]

1. An Argentine cabinet minister recently asserted that the government had practically decided to announce the freezing of all wages and salaries effective 20 October 1949. The minister anticipated a violent reaction by labor if such an announcement were made. The freeze was discussed at some length at a recent cabinet meeting. Although many ministers were not in favor of the measure, the minister was almost certain at the time that President Peron would approve it.

2. In a private conversation with certain Argentine bankers, Samuel E. Gradin, an official of the Central Bank, remarked that the economic situation in Great Britain and Europe is catastrophic and that it is up to Argentina to take advantage of it. He believed that a similar state of affairs existed in many Latin American countries, but pointed out that the influence of the United States was too strong in those countries for Argentina to profit much by it.

3. Additional police personnel have been added to the Casa Rosada guard and the approaches to Peron's offices have been more restricted than heretofore.

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4. Posters bearing the letters "M J" have recently appeared on walls in various sections of Buenos Aires. [redacted] the letters stand for "Mate Judios" (Kill the Jews) and has been informed that the posters were put up by fanatical nationalists. They may be the forerunners of an anti-Semitic campaign.

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